

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02926 081057Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----058362 081106Z /15
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5361

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2926

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GR
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS ISSUES CRITICAL STATEMENT AND CANCELS MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 89685

1. AFTER ISSUING STATEMENT STRONGLY CRITICAL OF
ADMINISTRATION'S DECISIONS ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN,
THE PRIME MINISTER POSTPONED THE MEETING HE HAD SET WITH
ME FOR TODAY.

CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT ISSUED LAST NIGHT IS AS
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS
ENTITLED TO DETERMINE ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY
ACCORDING TO ITS JUDGEMENT. BUT IT CANNOT DO SO
IN A MANNER HARMFUL TO THE INTERESTS OF GREECE OR
CYPRUS.

SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, THE PROBLEM WAS
FURTHER COMPLICATED RATHER THAN HELPED TOWARDS A
SOLUTION FOR WANT OF A STABLE AND CONSISTENT
POLICY ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.
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IN ANY CASE, AND REGARDLESS OF THE WAY IN WHICH
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SHAPE ITS POLICY, GREECE
IS DETERMINED AND ABLE TO PROTECT HER NATIONAL
INTERESTS. END QUOTE

2. THIS MORNING MOLYVIATIS CALLED ME TO PROPOSE

POSTPONING MY MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS EXPLAINING THAT
IN LIGHT OF THE WAY THE LOCAL PRESS WAS OVERPLAYING
THE STATEMENT, IT WOULD "CREATE ADDITIONAL TENSION"
IF I WERE TO COME TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
TODAY.

3. I SAID I HAD READ THE STATEMENT AND THOUGHT IT
WAS UNNECESSARILY CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES BUT
COULD NOT JUDGE WHETHER PRESS TREATMENT MADE IT MORE
FEVERISH THAN IT WAS INTENDED TO BE. I EMPHASIZED
THAT I WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
AT ANY TIME AND THAT IF TODAY'S MEETING WERE POSTPONED,
IT WOULD BE BY GOG CHOICE.

4. MOLYVIATIS REPEATED THEIR PROFESSED CONCERN THAT TO
MEET TODAY MIGHT AGGRAVATE THE PRESENT SITUATION.
I REPEATED THAT INASMUCH AS THEY HAD ASKED FOR THE
MEETING, I HAD LEFT THE CHOICE UP TO THEM INQUIRING
AT THE SAME TIME WHETHER THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING
WAS TO SERVE SIMPLY AS MY INITIAL COURTESY
CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, OR WHETHER HE HAD SOME-
THING PARTICULAR HE WISHED TO TELL ME. THE REPLY
WAS IT WAS SOME OF BOTH.

5. WE LEFT IT THAT I WOULD HEAR FROM OLYVIATIS EARLY
NEXT WEEK AND WE WOULD GO ON FROM THERE.
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6. I MADE NO REFERENCE IN THE CONVERSATION TO
PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER WHICH I GREATLY APPRECIATE
RECEIVING, AND WILL HOLD IT UNTIL THE MEETING IS
RESCHEDULED.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

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